

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

May 2012 – Week 4

Air Date: May 20 – May 26 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: TORNADO TOWN TEXAS

MAY 1987 AND TRAGEDY STRIKES TORNADO TOWN.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

MAY 22, 1987. SARAGOSA, IN FAR WEST TEXAS. FOR A HUNDRED YEARS, THE POPULATION HERE HAS HOVERED AROUND 200. TONIGHT, MOST ARE GATHERED FOR A PRE-SCHOOL GRADUATION AT THE TOWN HALL. AS KIDS IN LITTLE CAPS AND GOWNS CROSS THE STAGE, SOMEONE BUSTS IN...

MOMENTS LATER, A HALF-MILE WIDE TWISTER SLAMS INTO THE BUILDING. OVER 30 OF THE TOWN'S 183 RESIDENTS ARE KILLED, 121 INJURED. THE TOWN, IS GONE.

BUT THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME. IN 1938, SARAGOSA WAS WIPED OUT BY A TWISTER AND REBUILT TO THE SOUTH. TORNADOES ALSO HIT IN '64 AND '77. TODAY THE TOWN LIVES ON, WITH ABOUT 200 RESIDENTS.

THE SARAGOSA TORNADO STRUCK 25 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

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Julia Cauble Smith, "SARAGOSA, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hls21>), accessed May 10, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Rosie Flores, "Golden Years: Hamilton recalls long-ago tornados," *Pecos Enterprise* (<http://www.pecos.net/news/arch97/052097g.htm>), accessed May 10, 2012.

Karen Oglesby, "Book on Saragosa deals with the pain," *Pecos Enterprise* (<http://www.pecos.net/news/arch87/sar2587.htm>), accessed May 10, 2012.

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